

Applicant: Taka-Aki Sato
Serial No.: 09/327,750
Filed: June 7, 1999
Page 2

Amendments to the claims:

Certain claims have been amended below without disclaimer or prejudice to applicant's right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Applicant: Taka-Aki Sato
Serial No.: 09/327,750
Filed: June 7, 1999
Page 3

Listing of claims:

1-133. (canceled)

134. (Currently Amended) A method for determining whether an agent may be an apoptosis inhibitor ~~decreases apoptosis~~ comprising:

- (a) contacting the agent with a NADE protein and a p75 neurotrophin receptor *in vitro* under conditions which, in the absence of the agent, permit the formation of a complex between the NADE protein and the receptor;
- (b) determining the amount of complex formed in step (a) between the NADE protein and the receptor; and
- (c) determining whether the amount of complex determined in step (b) is less than the amount of complex formed in the absence of the agent, such lower amount indicating that the agent may be an apoptosis inhibitor ~~decreases apoptosis~~.

135. (Currently Amended) A method for determining whether an agent may be an apoptosis inducer ~~increases apoptosis~~ comprising:

- (a) contacting the agent with a NADE protein and a p75 neurotrophin receptor *in vitro* under conditions which, in the absence of the agent, permit the formation of a complex

- between the NADE protein and the receptor;
- (b) determining the amount of complex formed in step (a) between the NADE protein and the receptor; and
- (c) determining whether the amount of complex determined in step (b) is greater than the amount of complex formed in the absence of the agent, such greater amount indicating that the agent may be an apoptosis inducer.
~~increases apoptosis.~~

136. (Previously presented) The method of claim 134 or 135, wherein the NADE protein comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:13.

137-139. (Canceled)

140. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 134 or 135 ~~137~~, wherein the contacting of step (a) is not performed in an intact cell.

141. (Currently Amended) A method for determining whether an agent may be an apoptosis inhibitor ~~decreases apoptosis~~ comprising:

- (a) contacting the agent *in vitro* with a cell that expresses a NADE protein and a p75 neurotrophin receptor;
- (b) determining the expression level of the NADE

protein in the cell; and

- (c) determining whether the expression level determined in step (b) is lower than the NADE protein expression level determined in the absence of the agent, such lower expression level indicating that the agent may be an apoptosis inhibitor ~~decreases~~ ~~apoptosis~~.

142. (Currently Amended) A method for determining whether an agent may be an apoptosis inducer ~~increases~~ ~~apoptosis~~ comprising:

- (a) contacting the agent *in vitro* with a cell that expresses a NADE protein and a p75 neurotrophin receptor;
- (b) determining the expression level of the NADE protein in the cell; and
- (c) determining whether the expression level determined in step (b) is greater than the NADE protein expression level determined in the absence of the agent, such greater expression level indicating that the agent may be an apoptosis inducer ~~increases~~ ~~apoptosis~~.

143. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141 or 142, wherein the NADE protein comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:13.

Applicant: Taka-Aki Sato
Serial No.: 09/327,750
Filed: June 7, 1999
Page 6

144-145. (Canceled)

146. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141 or 142,
wherein the cell is a neuron, a cardiac cell, or a lung
cell.